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Office of the Library Director

Spring 2009

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from the steps

of Adams Library

Spring 2009

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On Being a Writer

The inaugural program of the Library's spring lecture series took place during the free period on Wednesday, March 25. Dr. Michael J. Michaud and Dr. Karen L. Boren, both professors in the College's English Department, shared the spotlight as well as their creativity as they explored the concept of writing and the role of an author.

In his presentation entitled "Who is a Writer?" Professor Michaud challenged our preconceived notions. Does the percentage of time spent writing determine whether one can claim the title? If not, then why not? When emergency medical technicians, for example, create reports that detail the who, what, when, where, why, and how of each of their cases, aren't they writing?

Professor Boren, who teaches creative writing and also writes both fiction and creative nonfiction, said that it took her a long time to call herself a writer. It became easier after her coming of age novel *Girls in Peril* was published in 2006 and was nominated for the Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Award. She then talked about her novel-in-progress, *Month of Fire*, and read an excerpt.

So, what makes a writer a "writer"? Judging from the reactions to the

Congratulations to the class of 2009! We at Adams Library are proud to have provided some of the resources, space, and comfort necessary for your academic success. I invite you to read this, our 3rd newsletter, to learn about our resources and recent activities. Despite the difficult economic times, we will continue to provide excellent services and interesting programs that contribute to the enrichment of the college experience. In order to better serve our students, we have expanded the library PR committee to include two student representatives and one alumnus. This past year the library has begun collaboration with student government to examine spaces within the library and how we can reconfigure these areas for better group interaction.

We are committed to making the best use of resources and identifying the most cost effective processes to meet your academic teaching and research needs. In this context, the Library will undertake several projects that will provide easier access to student theses and dissertations as well as to unique materials from the library's Special Collections. In order to enhance the programs and services that contribute to the well being of a strong college library we are also seeking grant funding. Our goal is to provide opportunities for high quality educational and cultural development.

Please visit our webpage, stop by, or call us to suggest activities or collaborative projects. Adams Library is here for you.

~Hedi BenAicha, Director, James P. Adams Library

Presentations and the lively interaction that followed, that remains a topic for discussion.

~Marlene Lopes

Film Libraries/Archives & Film Research

Faculty members Joan Dagle, Kathryn Kalinak, and Vincent Bohlinger, all members of the English Department, have had vast experience in doing research in different film libraries and archives around the world. On Wednesday, April 15, as part of the library's lectures series, they came together to relate their adventures in the United States, Europe, and Russia and to share their discoveries.

Their lectures covered the image of the "new woman" in early film, the reflection of political movements and images in Russian film, and the positive or sometimes challenging experience of doing

research on films. Their observations were accompanied by in depth antidotes about working with film archivists and librarians. In addition, they discussed the need for preserving archived materials and voiced their concern that conditions in film libraries/archives are at times not the best for either the preservation of materials or easy use of the materials.

The closing question and answer session discussed the process of digitization and how it has made it possible to preserve film; it also allows wider access to archived materials. However, the digitization of archival materials can be very costly and can take a lot of staff time to complete. As materials

age it is likely that digitization will play a key role in keeping these materials preserved for generations to come.

~Brian Baker



Profs. Vincent Bohlinger, Joan Dagle, Kathryn Kalinak

David and Lisa Maine, Access Services Supervisors



Lisa and David Maine

It is not unusual for life-long relationships to begin on college campuses, and Rhode Island College is no exception. Our colleagues David and Lisa Maine met right here in this building 25 years ago, and have been together ever since. Lisa began working in the library in 1977 when she was a RIC student and became a full-time member of the professional staff in 1980. She remembers seeing Dave arrive for his job interview in 1984. The two began dating 10 months later. Despite advice from people such as Dave's best friend Rick, who warned, "Workplace romances don't work," they married on January 4, 1986, and recently celebrated their 23rd wedding anniversary.

Working in the same department has had its advantages. As Dave and Lisa explain, their varying schedules allow them to cover shifts for each other when necessary and to care for their aging mothers. Being in the same department also means that they can support one another when there are workplace stresses. On the other hand, it can be difficult to plan vacations without leaving the department short-staffed. In fact, their January wedding date was chosen because it "was one of the only times we could both get two weeks off."

As Access Services supervisors, they have always worked closely with students. When asked how many students they have known in the past 25 years, they both answer "hundreds!" They've attended a dozen or more weddings of former student staff, and have discovered that one of their student workers, Corey Beltram (now graduated from URI) is the son of an earlier student, Beth Fry. "We've decided," said Lisa, "that it will be time to retire when the grandchildren show up!"

In recent years, Dave has reached beyond the limits of his job description and taken his supervisory role a step farther. Last semester, he oversaw the work of two middle school students as they completed a community service requirement in the Library. He has also trained and evaluated a special needs student for a Providence School Department program, and has supervised other young people who needed more than the typical amount of direction. Dave provides the kind of personal attention that is useful in such situations. This dedication is also evident in his commitment to his church, Warwick Central Baptist Church, where Dave serves as church President and an adult education leader. He has traveled on missions to the Dominican Republic and El Salvador to work on several building projects.

Lisa is known for her beautiful needlework, and, during breaks and lunches, she can be found in the staff room knitting or doing counted cross-stitch. Taught to sew at an early age by her grandmother and learning to knit as an adult, Lisa often gives her work as gifts or donates pieces to charities.

When asked about any memorable library events, both David and Lisa recall the day a pipe broke in the library stacks and water leaked onto the bookshelves. It was a catastrophe. Along with other library staff, they stood in ankle-deep water and moved books out of harm's way. Even more memorable was the mold outbreak a few years later.

David spearheaded the effort to remove the mold and became known as "Captain Mold" for his determination to vanquish the enemy before it could destroy the books. With the guidance of the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC), a portion of the stacks was quarantined for over two months. Working behind plastic sheeting to contain the outbreak, and using HEPA filtration vacuums and Lysol to remove the mold, Dave and Lisa, along with Director Richard Olsen and Library staff members, removed and treated every book in the affected areas and managed to save most of the collection.

Both Lisa and Dave are music lovers. They also enjoy traveling and have recently visited Ireland and several National Parks, including Yellowstone, Glacier National Park and the Grand Teton. There is a reason that they travel as much as they can. Lisa was born with only one kidney, and in 1999 it began to fail. They had planned a trip to London, but it had to be cancelled when Lisa needed to begin dialysis. Throughout her 17 months of dialysis she continued to work, rearranging her schedule to fit her treatments. On July 24, 2000, Lisa received a kidney from a live donor – her aunt. Both women are now living life to the fullest. "We do the traveling that we do because we don't know how long this is going to last," says Lisa. She shares her story because "organ donations are needed so desperately, and a kidney is something that anyone can give fairly easily."

Over the years David and Lisa have had responsibility for nearly every one of the service areas in the Access Services department. Currently Dave is the Facilities Supervisor for the building, overseeing the stacks and the books. Lisa is the Document Delivery Supervisor. They live in Warwick with their cats Gyro-Man and Merlin.

~Debra Thomson



Amos Jallah, Kristin Apuzzo, David Maine, Lisa Maine, and Catherine Lavalley

Diplomacy and Librarianship: Liaison to the Art Department

Tjalda Nauta, the third Director of the Adams Library, created the liaison program to "facilitate communication between faculty, academic departments, and the Library." The main purpose was to make collection development more responsive to the needs of departments and schools. Liaison librarians were each assigned one or two areas to develop. The specificity of focus would be balanced by the global view of the Library Collection Development Coordinator. It was hoped that departmental visits by the librarians would encourage personal relationships which would then inform the librarians more specifically about the present and future teaching needs of the faculty. Thus liaison work was viewed as part of the library's mission to support the curriculum and thereby more effectively serve faculty and students.

Having a subject specialty is not a requirement for a liaison, but it does help in developing an embracing love for the discipline that can translate into going the extra mile for the department. In my case, having spent more than forty years of study and teaching in this discipline at the undergraduate and graduate levels, the Art Department represents an area that has been the focus of my life. It has also helped me to develop courses in library instruction for the art historians at Rhode Island College, Drs. Mary Ball Howkins and Natasha Seaman. I was delighted to be asked to instruct in art education for Dr. Cheryl Williams. It is my hope that the studio ... (Diplomacy...p.3)

Standing on the Edge: Graphic Novels in the Adams Library



Transmetropolitan: Lust for Life by Warren Ellis and Derick Robertson (Vertigo, 1998), Cover.

Graphic novels can be described as novel-length comic books of adult interest. Many have received critical notice. The art work is sophisticated, brilliant, frequently frightening, and psychologically disturbing. At their best these novels challenge basic assumptions of decency, honesty, and truth and civilized beliefs in order, justice, and continuity. They question easily held opinions on mental health and the spiritual. In 2006 the *Journal of Academic Librarianship* published an article, "Graphic Novels in Academic Libraries: from Maus to Manga"¹ that legitimized the collection of graphic novels in major research libraries.

Twenty years ago Adams Library began collecting graphic novels that were required texts in the History and English Departments. The success of *Maus* and *Persepolis* led to further collection development. The Library acquired Neil Gaiman's *Preludes & Nocturnes*, *Doll's House*, and *Season of Mists*, as well as the controversial *Transmetropolitan Series* of 11 volumes loosely based on the adventures of Hunter Thompson, the creator of Gonzo journalism. Recently 25 graphic novels were added to the Library's collection, and we will continue to buy those that we think are of interest to courses in Film Studies, English, History and Art.

~Kresten Jespersen & Carla Weiss

¹ O'English, Lorena, Matthews, J. Gregory, Lindsay, Elizabeth Blakesley. (2006). "Graphic Novels in Academic Libraries: From Maus to Manga and Beyond." *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 32 (2), 173-182. An essential article for developing a graphic novel collection, it collocates the precursors of contemporary authors, identifies collections at research universities, and ties together the graphic novel and its Japanese counterpart (manga).

On the Media

Cataloging the video collection housed in the College's Audiovisual Department and adding the records to the Adams Library catalog was a project that had long been contemplated by the Library, the Audiovisual Department, and the College. It was first considered back in the early 1970's, but proved to be too complex and time consuming an undertaking. The first video collection added came in the mid 1990's when the Curriculum Resources Center moved into the Library. It currently consists of over 600 VHS tapes and 100 DVDs. The Audiovisual Department project was revisited in 2006, a time when computer databases and catalogs made the project feasible. Beginning in the spring of 2006, starting with the newest VHS titles and DVDs, bibliographic records were added to the Library catalog even though the tapes and DVDs resided in the Audio Visual Department. The Library also began to develop a video collection of its own. By the fall of 2006 the decision had been made to move the entire collection of close to 5000 VHS tapes and 50 DVD titles to the Library. The actual move was made in May 2007.

The most used 900 VHS tapes are shelved in the Library's Reserve area. They have full cataloging in the HELIN catalog and are searchable by several access points, including titles, subjects, production companies and persons associated with the production (i.e. actors, narrators, producers, and directors). The remainder of the VHS tapes are shelved on Level 2, and information about these videos is gradually being added to the Library catalog. The Library's Reference Department has listings of these videos and can provide assistance in locating them.

The Library has over 350 DVDs. They all have full cataloging in the HELIN catalog and have Library of Congress classification numbers which facilitates browsing the collection by subject. Many of these titles were ordered to support course offerings and are shelved in Reserves. The Friends of Adams Library purchased a number of DVDs for leisure viewing, and the

Graphic Novels

Ellis, Warren; Derick Robertson, illus.

Transmetropolitan (1998-2004) PN6728 .T68

After a break from decadent civilization, gonzo journalist Spider Jerusalem returns to a life he hates in a city he loathes even more. *For mature readers only.*

Gaiman, Neil

Preludes & Nocturnes (1995) PN6728 .S26 G356 1995

A chilling portrait of the King of Dreams and a depiction of Death as a vampy gothic vixen.

The Doll's House (1995) PN6728 .S26 G352 1995

Introduces the Endless, the family of the King of Dreams.

Season of Mists (1992) PN6728 .S26 G357 1992

The Endless continues, with Desire, Destiny, Delicious, Despair, Death, Lucifer and the Sandman's first love, Nada.

Satrapi, Marjane

Persepolis (2003) PN6747 .S245 P473 2003

A memoir of growing up female in Iran during the overthrow of the Shah, the advent of Islamic rule, and the war with Iraq.

Spiegelman, Art

Maus: a Survivor's Tale (1986) D810 .J4 S643 1986

Won the Pulitzer Prize Special Award in 1992. Tells story of author's parents, Polish Jews who survived the Holocaust, here anthropomorphically depicted as mice.

Library has added to the collection as the budget permits. The most recent DVDs are shelved in a rotating rack in the 3rd floor Browsing Area. More are shelved on Level 2.

There are viewing stations for both VHS tapes and DVDs in the Reserve area. Videos which are not on reserve circulate for the period of one week.

~Dena Janson



Diplomacy... (continued from p.2)

faculty also will seek library instruction by me in the great new instruction facility that opened in the Library last fall.

Liaison work is the diplomacy of librarianship. With liaison duties go ambassadorial responsibilities to the departments and schools, as well as concomitant duties, to the Collection Development Coordinator to acquire pertinent and appropriate resources, and, above all, to the Director of the Library in whose stead we represent the Library to the Rhode Island College community. Policy needs to be affirmed, protocol needs to be followed, and discretion needs to be maintained. As librarian liaisons we are directly involved in the public relations of the Library, and it takes the entire community of the Library to effect positive relations.

~Kresten Jespersen

A Year in Review

The Library had a productive and busy year. We hosted a number of exciting programs both through our fall and spring lecture series and events sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Below, a look back at the programs we sponsored in the past year. We continue to seek new and exciting programs to share with you.

2008

- September** Reception for Hedi BenAicha, new Library Director
Lecture, "Owen Jones: Achievement & Influence." Presented by Dr. Kresten Jespersen.
- October** **Lecture**, "The Italian American Experience in Rhode Island, 1880-1960." Presented by Joseph Muratore
Library Lecture Series "The Importance of Reading." Presented by President Carrioulo
Faculty Research Presentations
Faculty Workshop on Library Services
- November** **Lecture**, "The Future's So Bright I Gotta Wear (prescription) Shades." Presented by Professor Joseph Zornado
Graduate Faculty Workshop on Library Services
- December** **Library Lecture Series**, "And Madly Read." Presented by Dr. Norman Smith.
Holiday Craft Sale

2009

- January** **Library Exhibit**: Poe Bicentennial
- Feb./Mar.** **Library Exhibits**: Darwin Day and Owen Jones
Library Lecture Series: "Writers on Writing." Presented by Professors Karen Boren and Michael Michaud
Dinner, Friends of the Library honor Commendatore Joseph Muratore
- April** **Library Lecture Series**. "Film Research in Libraries/ Archives" Presented by Professors Joan Dagle, Kathryn Kalinak, and Vincent Bohlinger.
Lecture, "Crazy Heart from Page to Screen." Presented by Professor Thomas Cobb
ASTAL Luncheon sponsored by the Friends of the Library
Earth Day Celebration. "Transportation & Environment." Presented by Professor Barry Schiller.

Friends Corner

In Appreciation: Joseph R. Muratore



On October 18, 2008, as part of its Fall Program, the Friends and the Library sponsored a very well attended lecture given by historian, businessman, community leader and Friends Board member Commendatore Joseph R. Muratore. It was entitled "The Italian American Experience in Rhode Island, 1880-1960." Exhibits illustrative of his talk were prepared by Marlene Lopes and contained a fine sampling of the many photographs, books, articles, and artifacts that he so generously has donated over the years to the Library's Special Collections.

To demonstrate appreciation for Commendatore Muratore's longstanding generosity, loyalty, and connections to the Library and the College, the Friends also held a dinner celebration on St. Joseph's Day, March 19, 2009. Taking place at Constantino's on Federal Hill, it featured a wonderful meal, complete with zeppoles for dessert. Muratore family members and friends were in attendance, as were many from the Library, Friends, and FAL Executive Board. As part of the evening's festivities, Jean Brown, Hedi BenAicha and Richard A. Olsen presented Joe Muratore with a commemorative plaque inscribed, "Per il Commendatore Muratore con profondo apprezzamento, Joseph R. Muratore, Honored as a Loyal Friend & Gracious Supporter of the James P. Adams Library, The Rhode Island College Foundation & Rhode Island College, 2009."

The dinner and presentation were a tremendous way to celebrate the special connections established with Commendatore Muratore, a man who truly understands what binds us together in our diverse community.

~Sharon Giacobbi

Friends Recognized by RI Coalition of Library Advocates

In February, Library Director Hedi BenAicha, Friends President and Professor of English Jean E. Brown, and J. Kresten Jespersen, Librarian and Assistant Professor, attended the Annual Meeting of the Rhode Island Coalition of Library Advocates (COLA). At this meeting the Friends of Adams Library received the William E. Reeves Friends Recognition Award for Dr. Jespersen's outstanding educational program on Owen Jones's career as an iron-and-glass architect, interior decorator, and ornamentor. The Award acknowledged both the scholarship of Dr. Jespersen and the value of programs that make selected works from rare book collections accessible to the community.

The award-winning program was in two phases. Last July there was an exhibit in the lobby of the Adams Library of twelve original chromolithographed rare books on the subject of ornament. The interest generated by the exhibit led to phase two when Adams Library Director, Hedi BenAicha, asked Dr. Jespersen to present a lecture as the inaugural event in the 2008-09 Friends of Adams Library Program. In the program Dr. Jespersen discussed Owen Jones's career looking at his synthesis of Islamic principles of design into original works of art for the Victorian period. The point of the Grammar, Dr. Jespersen explained, was the creation of an original ornament that would lead to the genesis of an original style of architecture. The lecture ended with an account of the widespread influence of Owen Jones in Great Britain, Europe, and America.

COLA presented the Friends with a framed certificate, now on display in the Library, and a cash award. This was the first time that the Friends of Adams Library received such recognition.

~Jean Brown

and off campus. I could always stop into JPA to find out about the latest student and department activities, art exhibitions, guest speakers, and performances.

~William Corrente

RIC Graduate, December 2008

Congratulations!



Alumni Voices: William Corrente '08

Over the course of my studies at Rhode Island College, I found the James P. Adams Library to be far more than a mere place to study before exams. Without it, I doubt my skills as a researcher would have progressed nearly as far by graduation. As I conducted research within the library, I was routinely confronted with an embarrassment of riches. The incredible diversity of material available at JPA—both in print and online—gave me the opportunity to broaden my perspective on world events, and sharpen my analytical skills. The library was also a useful clearinghouse for information on events, both on

from the steps is a publication of the James P. Adams Library.

PR Committee

Chair, Hedi BenAicha
Brian Baker
Jean Brown
Rachel Carpenter
Marlene Lopes
Ellen Morais
Debra Thomson

Student Representatives

Shawn Andrews
William Corrente
Larry Cunningham

